



Questions and answers about the proposed Capitol use rule

Q: Is a permit needed for free speech and assembly activities?

Free speech and assembly activities have always been allowed on the capitol grounds. This does not change under the proposed rule.

A permit is needed for activities involving twenty-five or more people. A permit enables you to reserve access to specific times and locations. This is so that we can schedule and manage the many activities and visitors that come to the capitol buildings and grounds each year.

If you want to reserve a specific time and location and your activity involves less than twenty-five people you may wish to consider applying for a permit.

Q: Is the proposed rule more restrictive of free speech and assembly activities on the capitol grounds, including Sylvester Park and Heritage Park?

No. The proposed rule is more open than past policy. Past policy required permits to reserve specific times and locations for all free speech and assembly activities, regardless of size. Past policy also required four days advance notice; the proposed rule only requires two days.

Q: We just decided to hold an activity and we cannot meet the 2 day advance notice requirement. Are we prohibited from assembling on the capitol grounds?

No, provided that your activity does not conflict with a previously permitted activity for a specific time and location and complies with applicable laws and rules.

Q: Can we still have displays and exhibits on the capitol grounds?

Yes, this is the same as past policy. Subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions, the public may place displays and exhibits in the public areas of the capitol grounds.

However, the public is not permitted to place displays and exhibits in the public areas of the capitol buildings.

Q: Is there a fee for a permit for free speech and assembly activities?

No. As in past policy, there is no fee for a permit for free speech and assembly activities.

GA may charge for specific services and amenities that you ask us to provide, such as for equipment set-up, stages and seating, and custodial services.

Q: How does the proposed rule affect the interim policy?

In August, GA adopted an interim policy that governs displays and exhibits on the Capitol Campus. The interim policy will sunset when the new rule is adopted. We expect our current rule-making process to be completed by the end of this year.

Media Inquiries

- Steve Valandra, Communications Director 360 902-7215
- Jim Erskine, Communications Consultant, 360 902-7206
- **Current rule-making:** http://www.ga.wa.gov/Rules/rules_proposed.htm
- **Rule-making overview:** <http://www.ga.wa.gov/Rules/CampusUseRulemakingOverview.pdf>